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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 30 April 1954

SUBJECT Practice and Combat Alerts of the 16th  
Fighter Regt. at Line (Dobruany) Airfield

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE [REDACTED]

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Practice Alert (Cvicny Poplach)

1. [REDACTED] of alerts taking place on several occasions; they were the practice and the combat alerts.
2. In the practice alert the personnel participating varied from small units, for example, troops billeted in a particular barrack, to an entire regiment. This practice alert usually meant:
  - a. get up,
  - b. get dressed,
  - c. gather all the necessary field equipment,
  - d. "fall in" at designated places.

Training marches often followed. The signal for this type of alert was produced by an alert team pounding on a piece of rail. Each hall in the barracks had two such pieces of rails hanging on the wall on each end of the hall. The alert team consisted of five persons: one officer-in-charge called the Dozorci Vojenskeho Telesa or DVT, one assistant officer-in-charge called the Pomoocny Dozorci Vojenskeho Telesa or PDVT, one regular NCO, and two assistant NCO's. This alert crew was responsible for the correct signaling of the alert

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happened invariably that the troops heard about the alert ahead of time and most of the servicemen had their field packs ready before the alarm was announced.

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3. As soon as the alert crew announced the alert by pounding on the piece of rail, the troops had to get their field equipment ready.
4. The field equipment consisted of a gas mask, mess kit, and machine gun No. 25 with 120 rounds of live ammunition which were obtained from a storage located in each barrack where troops were billeted. Machine guns were stored in lockers in the halls and the remaining equipment servicemen kept in their personal footlockers. After the 20-minute time limit, servicemen stood outside at attention and several officers made an inspection. When the inspection was over an order was given either to return back to the billets or to leave the air base and perform some other duties.

5. [redacted]
- a. July 1953: Practice alert (time unrecalled by [redacted]) when troops of the 16th Fighter Regt. were allowed 20 minutes in order to get their field equipment ready and to fall in. Troops did not leave the base.
- b. [redacted] Simple practice alert announced at 2230 hours. [redacted] announced this alert.) After the troops fell in, they were divided into two groups. One group left for a small village near the airbase to take up a defense position and the second group was to attack the first group. Troops returned to the base at 0330 hours. [redacted] offer any further comments on the exercise and effectiveness of the alert as he took no part in it.
- c. [redacted] Practice alert which took place at 0100 hours. and the troops did not leave the airbase. [redacted] this alert served as a punishment for breaking certain rules and regulations. It was also to serve as a reminder to be obedient to the Czechoslovak air force. From time to time leaves and passes were not given to anybody, sometimes for known and other times for unknown reasons. Just before this practice alert took place, passes and leaves of any kind were not issued. However, troops were told that they were allowed to leave the base in large numbers on trucks and help some farmers with their field work in the vicinity of the airfield. A large number of servicemen volunteered for this task. [redacted] was told that after helping the farmers for a couple of hours, the troops took off for a nearby town and behaved very improperly. On account of this incident this [redacted] practice alert was scheduled.
- d. [redacted] Two practice alerts took place; no one left the airbase.
- e. [redacted] Practice alert on the base when the entire 16th Fighter Regt. participated. It was announced at 0430 hours. Troops were divided into several sections performing different tasks. One section received orders to go to Pilsen by trucks, wake and pick up married officers and servicemen residing there and bring them to the base. Troops living on the base left the airfield with their field equipment and marched towards the village of Zbuch /N 49-41, E 13-13/ and back to the base. At about 0600 hours all sections returned to the base.

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Combat Alert (Bojovy Poplach):

6. This type of an alert was announced by the sounding of a siren. Usually the entire 3rd Air Div. participated in this alert. However, at times the various fighter regiments scheduled their own individual battle alerts which were announced by pounding on the pieces of rails as described above. Again 20 minutes were allowed to get ready for the alert. As with the practice alert, troops had to get their field equipment ready, pilots had to report to the alert crew and pick up their pistols at their respective regimental barracks. Note: Each fighter regiment [redacted] its own troops in the regimental barracks; refer to Points. 38, 43, and 53, [redacted] Mechanics and technicians were required to carry gas masks and pistols which they obtained in their regimental barracks, after which they proceeded to the hangars to put on their fatigue clothes. In the meantime the 5th Fighter Regt. parked its aircraft at the west end of the taxi strip, Point 7 and Point 64. The 8th Fighter Regiment parked its aircraft at Point 25 and at the east end of the taxi strip, Point 7. The aircraft of the 16th Fighter Regt. were parked at Point 35, [redacted]
7. After obtaining their pistols from the regimental barracks, pilots and mechanics had to take positions for alert No. 2. Refer to Point 60, [redacted] Mobile repair shops were parked at Point 33, [redacted]
8. After the above-mentioned preparations (within 20 minutes), there was an inspection lasting about 30 minutes.
9. From September 1953 until the end of October 1953, three battle alerts took place [redacted] at 0430 hours.

Battle Preparedness Test (Proverky)

10. Exactly the same preparations were made for the battle-preparedness test as for the combat alert. Battle-preparedness tests were scheduled either for the individual fighter regiments at various times or for the entire air division. This type of test was scheduled for spring and for fall. However, [redacted] with the 16th Fighter Regt. only one such test took place at the end of September 1953. This test lasted four to five days. [redacted] on the airfield was tested. Officers and enlisted men tested their weapons and their shooting ability at a former kaolin quarry /Point 83, [redacted]. Political indoctrination tests were conducted orally in scheduled classes. Mechanics were tested as to their effectiveness and skill. In favorable weather, pilots had to do some flying (time limit unknown to Source). All kinds of physical exercises were performed by the officers and the troops. [redacted] were supervised and inspected by the respective regimental commanders.

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